**Environment Damage due to Prawn Cultivation**

3214. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Prawn-hungry West driving destruction in Asia: Report", appearing in the *Economic Times* dated May 28, 1996;

(b) whether cultivation of the prawn is causing environmental damage and loss of farm land in the country.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Culture of prawns by adopting sustainable, eco-friendly and socially acceptable methods as per the guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Agriculture, does not cause environmental damage. Construction of ponds on lands not fit for cultivation alone is permitted for shrimp farming- Conversion of agricultural land for culture of prawns is disscouraged and the same is also presently prohibited by the Supreme Court.

In India, out of the estimated brackish water area of 12 lakh ha., about 1.44 lakh ha. area presently is reported to be under shrimp farming. Over 75 per cent of this area i.e. about 1.08 lakh ha. is under traditional/ extensive farming and remaining 36,000 ha. under modified extensive/semi-intensive shrimp farming. It is also estimated that the total annual production of cultured shrimps in India as on 1993-94 was aroung 84,000 tons. There have been reports of some environmental degradation along Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu coast, in areas where there is a high concentration of shrimp farms.

(d) Government is encouraging prawn/shrimp culture activities under scientific culture systems to avoid any possible adverse impact on the environment. Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments which include, development of sustainable aquaculture as an eco-friendly activity, treatment of waste water, environment impact assessment study at the planning stage for units above 40 ha., avoiding use of chemicals and overall improvement in soil and water management practices.

*[Translaiton]*

**Senior School in the Dhanbad Rail Division**

3215. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no senior school in the Dhanbad Rail Division of the Eastern Railway despite its being predominantly inhabited by the Tribals and the Scheduled Castes and also being a backward area;

(b) whether the local people of Dhanbad Rail Division has been demanding a senior school in Barwadeeh since long;

(c) whether the Zonal headquarters at Calcutta has completed all the formalities in this regard and is only awaiting clearance of the Railway Board; and

(d) if so, the action proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. Kendriya Vidyalayas are functioning in Railway Colonies at Dhanbad (upto Class XII) and at Patratu (upto Class X).

(b) to (d). A proposal for upgradation of Railway Middle School at Barwadeeh, upto 10th standard was received from Eastern Railway. In view of the adequate educational faertities available at Barwadeeh, the proposal to upgrade the Railway Middle School thereat to High School has not been found justified.

*[English]*

**Environmental Development of Chamundi Hills**

3216. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Norwegian Government has come forward to give outright grant of Rs. 2.50 crores for the environmental development of Chamundi Hills in Mysore;

(b) if so, the developmental work proposed to be taken up with the said grant;

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed;

(d) whether there is any proposal to extend any financial assistance by the Central Government in addition to the said grant; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). Does not arise.

**Poaching in Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

3217. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether poaching in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has increased considerably;

(b) whether valuable timber, crocodile, rare red corals are taken away by the foreign infiltrators;

(c) if so, the number of boats/ships alongwith persons apprehended, nationality-wise and the date of such encounters; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Wildlife authorities of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have reported that although boats and ships of foreign origin alongwith foreign nationals have been apprehended sporadically, they are not known to indulge in poaching nor have any timber, crocodiles or rare red corals been recovered from them.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Forest and Wildlife authorities are taking the help of the Coast Guards, Navy and Local Police to curb the foreign intruders.

*[Translation]*

**Research in Agriculture Field**

3218. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the efforts being made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to develop new hybrid seeds of oilseeds and pulses; and

(b) the details of specific achievements made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to develop new hybrid seeds of oilseeds and pulses; and

(b) the details of specific achievements made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in the field of agriculture during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Success has been achieved in developing hybrids in pigeonpea (arhar) in the last five years. Two short duration hybrids namely COH-1 for Tamil Nadu and PPH 4 for Punjab have been released for cultivation. Efforts are underway to develop hybrids in medium and long duration pigeonpea also.

In respect of oilseed, improved hybrids have been developed in Sunflower (KBSH-1, PKVSH-17, APSH-17, PSFH-67, TNAUSUF-7) Castor (DCH-30, SBH-145, GAUCH-4) and Gobhi Sarson (GSLH-51).

Besides hybrids 45 high yielding varieties of pulses and 60 varieties of oilseeds combining resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses have been developed in different part of the country during the last five years and released for cultivation. They include 10 in pigeonp, 12 in chickpea, 13 in mung and urgbean; 13 in groundnut 9 in Brassica, 10 in sesame and 10 in soybean etc.

(b) **Rice and Wheat** - A wide choice of varieties well adapted to different rainfed ecologies and five hybrids for irrigated ecology for the first time have been developed. The improved rainfed rice varieties yield 40 to 50% higher than the local varieties while the hybrids yield one tonne more per hectare than the best varieties. Hybrid rice areas has increased to 5,0000 ha, this year. In the case of wheat rust susceptable varieties like HD 2329 and HD 2385 have been replaced by UP 2338 in the North West Plain Zone and Sonalika susceptable to their diseases by Sonali etc.

**Course Cereal** - In case of millets, despite sharp decline in area there has been steady production advance attributable to impressive productivity growth which in turn are due to high yielding hybrids such as CSH 113R, CSH 14, CSA 15R in Sorghum.

**Pulses** - The emphasis has been to breed short duration varieities and hybrids in Arhar, multiple disease resistance in chickpea, green gram, black gram, peas the lentil. Increased adoption of improved varieties has contributed considerably to the impressive production advances by one million tonnes and productivity to 601 kg. from 555 kg/ha during the last five years.

**Oilseed** - Spectacular progress has been made in the oilseed production during last five years. The soybean production has gone up to 4.0 mt. in 1994-95 from 2.0 mt. recorded in 1990-91. This has enabled the country to earn Rs. 15,000 m. in 1993-94 in foreign exchange through export of oil meal and has stablized the oilseed production in the country.

Commercial hybrids have been made available in pigeonpea, sunflower, rabimaize, rabi sorghum, castor gobhi-sarson, tomato, cabbage and cotton.

*[English]*

**Rare Quail**

3219. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Rare Quail sighted in Uttar Pradesh hills", appearing in the *Sunday Times of India* dated June 6, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken for the protection and conservation of this rare species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.